

REMARKS

The examiner has required restriction between claims 20-33 and claims 34-36. The examiner based the requirement for restriction on the assertion that the limitations of at least claims 34-36 are disclosed, suggested or taught by at least Khoshnevis and therefore claims 34-36 are not patentable.

Applicant has amended claim 33 to specify that the variation of radiation absorption in steps (ii) and (iv) is obtained by providing an amount of radiation absorbent material over the selected surface portion of the layer and the further layer respectively. This wording is supported by the description at pages 8, lines 15-27 of the specification, which describes the process of providing a varying amount of radiation absorbent material, and the description at page 11, lines 1-20 of the specification, which describes providing a constant amount of radiation absorbent material over the layer of particulate material. Applicant has made a similar amendment to claim 20.

Claim 34 has been amended to specify that the apparatus comprises a printing head comprising radiation absorbent material. This amendment is supported by the description at page 9, lines 24-31 of the specification.

New claims 37-48 have been added, based on the previous claims 21-32 but dependent on claim 33.

Applicant elects the method claims, that is claims 20, 33 and 37-48 with traverse.

In support of the traverse, applicant submits Khoshnevis does not disclose or suggest a printing head comprising radiation absorbent material, as recited in claim 34. Therefore, the

justification for the requirement for restriction no longer applies.

Respectfully submitted,

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